

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) An apparatus, comprising a substrate and a nanoconduit material coupled to a surface of the substrate, wherein the substrate defines an aperture and the nanoconduit material defines a nanoconduit that is i) contiguous with the aperture and ii) aligned substantially non-parallel to a plane defined by the surface of the substrate.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the nanoconduit is aligned substantially perpendicular to the plane defined by the surface of the substrate.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the substrate includes silicon nitride.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the nanoconduit material includes SiO<sub>2</sub>.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the nanoconduit includes a circular cross section.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the nanoconduit includes a non-circular cross section.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the aperture includes a circular cross section.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the aperture includes a non-circular cross section.

26-33. (Canceled)